

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00382 121701Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121702Z 039265 /43

O 121510Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5677
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0382

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC PFOR, MZ, RH, UK, US
SUBJECT: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: OWEN MET THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO, WHO SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF NUMBER OF POINTS IN OWEN'S PROPOSAL, BUT DEFERRED COMMENT TO MACHEL, WITH WHOM OWEN IS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. OWEN IS DEPARTING MAPUTO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH MACHEL. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN OR GRAHAM WILL BRIEF AMBASSADOR BOWDLER IN CAPE TOWN ON RESULTS OF MACHEL MEETING. I WILL REPORT UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN'S ASSESSMENT OF MACHEL MEETING AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
END SUMMARY.

2. JOHN GRAHAM ARRANGED TO BRIEF ME AT MIDWAY POINT IN OWEN'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE, WHICH IS ONLY TIME IN SHORT STOP IN MAPUTO THAT HE EXPECTED BE FREE. HE SAID THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TO REPORT ON MEETING WITH
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CHISSANO, SINCE CHISSANO MERELY ASKED QUESTIONS AND DID NOT COMMENT ON UK PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED BY OWEN. AMONG AREAS IN WHICH CHISSANO SOUGHT MORE DETAILS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

A. U.S. ROLE. WHAT WAS THE EXTENT OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROPOSAL? WOULD THE USG PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE? IF SO, IN WHAT CAPACITY? OWEN

STRESSED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD A DEEP COMMITMENT "TO GETTING THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA." HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH SECRETARY VANCE, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL IN GENERAL TERMS HAD USG SUPPORT.

B. IAN SMITH. CHISSANO ASKED IF SMITH WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. OWEN SAID HE COULD NOT SAY AT THIS TIME. CHISSANO SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK SMITH WOULD ATTEND SINCE THE PROPOSAL, AS SPELLED OUT BY OWEN, DENIED SMITH A VETO ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL MAKE UP OF THE INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT, WHICH SMITH WOULD NOT ACCEPT.

C. DEALING WITH THE ARMIES. CHISSANO PROBED UK INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY FORCES. WOULD THEY BE INTEGRATED? DISBANDED? WHO WOULD COMMAND? (CONTROL OF THE ARMY AND POLICE IN RHODESIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAJOR INTEREST AND CONCERN OF MACHEL.) OWEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A COMPLEX MATTER, AND SAID THAT HE WAS STILL UNCERTAIN HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

3. COMMENT. BY THE TIME MACHEL MEETS WITH OWEN HE WILL HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT OWEN IS PROPOSING. NOT ONLY WILL HE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY CHISSANO, BUT I WOULD IMAGINE THAT MUGABE AND NYERERE HAVE ALSO REPORTED TO MACHEL ON THEIR MEETINGS WITH OWEN. WHAT HIS REACTION WILL BE, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE MEETING; CHISSANO GAVE NO HINT.

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